

The development of modal *no way*- constructions compared with that of *no question*- constructions

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Introduction

Introduction

- in Present Day English strings like *no doubt*, *no question*, and *no way* mainly used as **modal modifications**:
 - 2 **grammaticalized** cxns
 - modal adverbial modifying proposition:
*But **no way** should Giggs' contribution to last night's fantastic victory over the Turks be forgotten. (WB)*
 - clause modally modifying proposition:
*I still think there's **no way** the DI could be involved in her death.(WB)*
 - also use of autonomous **lexical** item + proposition:
*There is **one/no way** in which you can make amends.*
- modal constructions result of grammaticalization process

Introduction

- **different lexical source constructions** of noun + proposition
- *question* (De Wolf & Davidse 2010): noun + complement clause
noun licences clause specifying its content (CGE 2002)
*After this were there **certaine questions** among his counsell
proponed, whether the king needed in this case to have any
scruple at all, and if he had, what way were best to be taken
to deliver him of it.* (HC, 1500-1570)
- *way*: noun + relative clause
*a **waye** where manye wayes doe meete* (OED, 1585)
- do they yield **different sets of grammaticalized constructions?**

Introduction

Structure of paper:

1. Lexical and Modal uses with *no way*

1.1. Data + research questions

1.2. Lexical uses

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

2. Comparison with Lexical and Modal uses of *no question*

3. Conclusion



1. Lexical and Modal uses with *no way*

1.1. Data

- sample of 450 tokens extracted from *Wordbanks*
- query, [lemma="no"][word="way"], focused on string *no way*
- of these, 51 not relevant to research questions because *no way* not structurally associated with clause, e.g.
 - ‘*As the General had so clearly foreseen, there was **no way** out.*’
 - ‘***No way** forward then. And **no way** back.*’
- left sample of 399 usable examples

1.1. Research questions

- Types of lexical uses?
 - only *no way* + relative clause?
- Types of grammaticalized uses?
 - only clausal and adverbial expressions?
- Types of modality expressed?
 - deontic: obligation, permission
 - dynamic: volition, ability/possibility
 - epistemic: degrees of likelihood
- Quantitative distribution of these uses?

1.2. Lexical uses

A) Lexical head

- *No way* + relative clause
- 46 occurrences (12%)
- Meaning of lexical *no way*: ‘no manner, no means’
- Followed by *to*-infinitive, *of* + *ing*-form or finite
 - *I was just thinking that there's **no way** to send a signal, no way at all. We can't even yell.*
 - *There is **no way** you can go so quickly from the bottom to the top.*

1.2. Lexical uses

B) Untypical context

- *No way* + relative clause
 - 4 occurrences (1%): rare construction
 - Untypical context (Diewald 2006): gives rise to pragmatic inferences preparing new reading but is structurally still instance of older construction and hence analysed as such
 - formally noun + *in which* + relative clause
 - but inferred **modal** meaning, e.g. 'I wouldn't'
 - > inferential schema: absence of a 'way', a 'manner' implies dynamic 'non-volition'/'impossibility'
- *I said that **there was no way in which** I was going to put British deposits into a bank which was totally run by those on overdraft.*

1.2. Lexical uses

C) Composite predicate

- Composite predicates (Brinton & Akimoto 1999): general **V+NP** can be replaced by a simple lexical verb
- Result of process of **lexicalization** (Brinton & Traugott 2005)
- 3 occurrences (1%)
- *find no way (of/to)*
- Meaning: 'fail (to)'
 - *Leaphorn considered the question, **found no way** to reach a conclusion, and skipped back to the beginning.*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

A. modal auxiliary

- = verbo-nominal modal expression (cf. Loureiro-Porto (2010) on *have (no) need*) with *have + no way*, functioning in auxiliary slot followed by lexical verb
- 36 occurrences (9%)
- *have no way of/to*
- Meaning: ‘(can) not’, ‘not (be) able to’
-> dynamic: absence of participant-inherent ability (see ex.) or of situation-inherent possibility
- Often used with *know* (20/34 occurrences) or verbs with a similar meaning: *determine* (1), *learn* (1), *guess* (1), *tell* (1)
 - She *had no way of* knowing when Nick would return home.

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- *there (be) no way*: modally modifying clauses
- 49% of all the data (or 197 tokens): most frequent pattern
- strong negative meaning: *absolutely not, it is impossible, it is unlikely*
 - *He didn't like having to deal with her, but **there was no way** he could afford to lose her business.*
(~ *but he could **absolutely not** afford to lose her business*)
- **form** (always utterance-initial)
 - *there be no way* (188) = 95,5%
 - *[there (be)] no way* (7) = 3,5% (elliptical)
 - *with [there being] no way* (2) = 1,0% (elliptical)

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Complement types** following modally modifying clause:
 - (*that* +) finite clause (147): 74,5%
 - *to* + inf (25): 12,5%
 - *of* + *ing*-form (22): 11%
 - no clause following (3) = 1,5%
- Finite complement clause often with (primary) modal auxiliaries:
 - *There was no way all these problems could be solved simultaneously.*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Modalities:**

- Epistemic (17) = 8,5%

- Dynamic (160) = 81%:

- Dynamic absence of situation-inherent possibility (116) = 59%

- Dynamic absence of volition (32) = 16%

- Dynamic absence of ability/volition (5) = 2,5%

- Dynamic absence of ability (3) = 1,5%

- Other (4) = 2%

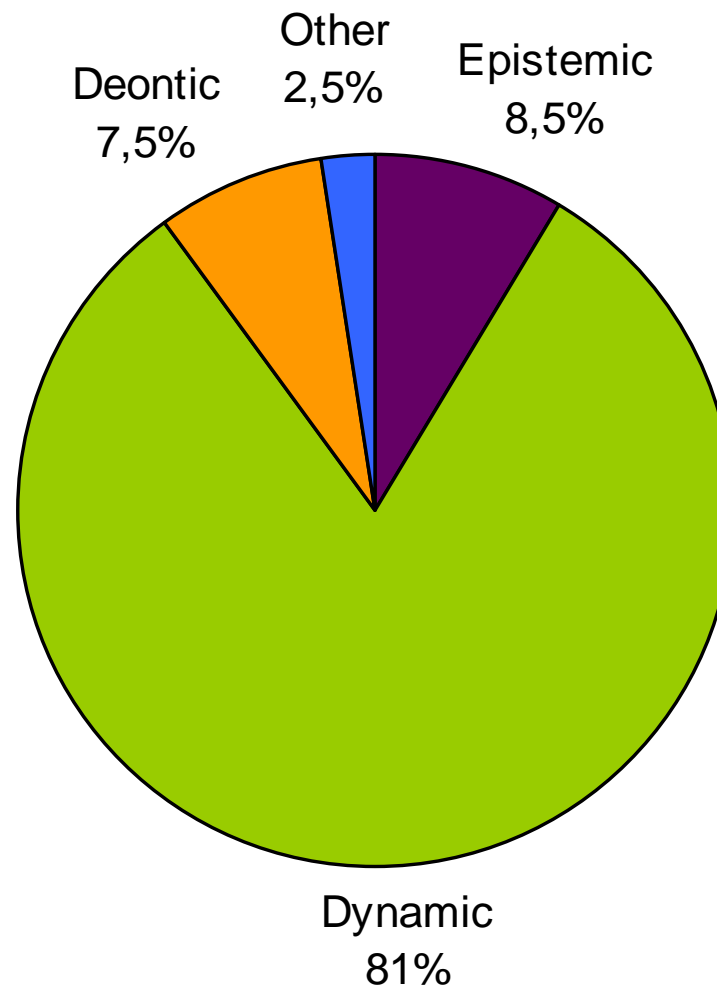
- Deontic (15) = 7,5%:

- Deontic absence of permission (14) = 7%

- Other (1) = 0,5%

- Other (5) = 2,5%

Modalities



1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Examples of modalities** expressed by modally modifying clauses:
 - Epistemic modality (17) = 8,5 %:
 - *There's no way it was a domestic murder.*
 - Deontic: absence of permission (14) = 7%:
 - *There is no way, repeat, no way, you're going to go charging after those people in Costa Rica until we've laid this all out in front of Richie Cagnia and the SAC in New York.*

– Dynamic modality: 81%:

- Dynamic: Absence of situation-inherent possibility (116) = 59%:

➤ *There was no way she was ever getting to sleep, not when closing her eyes long enough to blink freaked her out.*

- Dynamic: Absence of volition (32) = 16%:

➤ *There's no way I would want to do any of that to any of my patients.*

- Dynamic: Absence of ability/volition (5) = 2,5 %:

➤ *Fortunately, someone was on hand to give any fish I caught the last rites because there was no way I could ever do it.*

- Dynamic: Absence of ability (3) = 1,5 %:

➤ *"I can't do it. (...) **There's no way** I can pull it off."*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- 6 (3%) **bridging** between modal and lexical reading
 - all dynamic modality (absence of situation-inherent possibility)
 - *In Tesco stores, for example, unless you ask someone behind the instore bakery counter, **there is no way** of telling which bread was previously frozen because there is no mention of the fact on the labels.*
- **Phraseologies:** modifiers intensify modality; few:
 - *absolutely (1)/simply (1) no way at all (1)/in hell (2)/in the world (1)/on earth (1)*
 - ***There's no way in hell** she would have left Leadville walkin' -- not after Aurora went back to opium.*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Polarity:** all negative markers (reverse polarity complement) (cf. Kjellmer (1998) on polarity-reversing uses of *no question*)
 - Polarity-reversing: negative (191) = 97 %
 - *There was no way she was going to go back and stay in a small flat with Anna and her new husband. (~ she was not going; dynamic modality: absence of volition)*
 - Polarity-reversing: positive (3) = 1,5 %
 - *But there's no way we won't be going out to win at the KC Stadium in Hull (~ we will be going; dynamic modality: volition)*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Ellipsis of *[there (be)]*: (9) = 4,5%:**
no adverbial status, but ellipsis of matrix clause;
English adverbs cannot take complementizers e.g.
 - **Definitely* to predict that.
 - **Surely* that he should have known.
- with *[there being]* no way (2) = 1%:
 - (...) lie almost put them on the wrong side of the river Dee, with no way to ford to the southern side.
- *[there (be)]* no way (7) = 3,5%: (because not always + to-inf!)
 - No way to predict that.

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Relation form of verb and modality:**
 - (that +) finite (147):
all modalities
 - of + ing-form (22):
almost all (20 tokens or 91%) dynamic
(absence of situation-inherent possibility)
 - to + inf (25):
all dynamic (absence of situation-inherent possibility)

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

B. modally modifying clause

- **Collocations** between clausal modal expression and following verbs (cf. modal auxiliary): verbalization and cognition verbs:

know (10), *tell* (7), *predict* (5), *judge* (1), *guess* (1), *be certain* (1), *learn* (1):

- generally *of* + *ing*-form or *to*-inf
- all dynamic (absence of situation-inherent possibility)

➤ *There was no way of knowing* who I was any more, or who I might be when I finally got out of bed.

➤ The letter might, indeed, be a hoax; *there is no way of telling*.

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

C) Modal adverbial - *no way*

- 22 occurrences
- (i) Negative markers (86%): reverse polarity of clause
vs.
(ii) emphatic markers (14%): conserve polarity of clause
 - (i) *I'm **no way** too scattered to write my fuckin' name.*
 - (ii) *I don't guarantee it would be a comfortable world, **no way**.*
- Different modalities: epistemic, dynamic (absence of situation-inherent possibility/absence of volition), deontic (absence of permission), etc.

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

C) Modal adverbial - *no way*

- *No way*: most of the time (73%): used utterance-initially
- About 75% of these with subject-verb inversion
→ becoming part of paradigm of negative adverbs
 - *But **no way** would she deny him, not again.*
 - ***No way** can I eat meat first thing in the morning.*

1.3. Grammaticalized uses

C) Modal adverbial - *in no way*

- **Modal adverbial *in no way***: 52 occurrences (13%)
- Negative markers: 'absolutely not' (reverse polarity of complement clause)
- If modifying *can*: deontic (2) or dynamic (1) modality; otherwise epistemic negative marker
 - *The press can **in no way** be blamed for the axial moment of Mr Major's prime ministership.*
 - *(...) flexibility and compromise are **in no way** a sign of weakness*

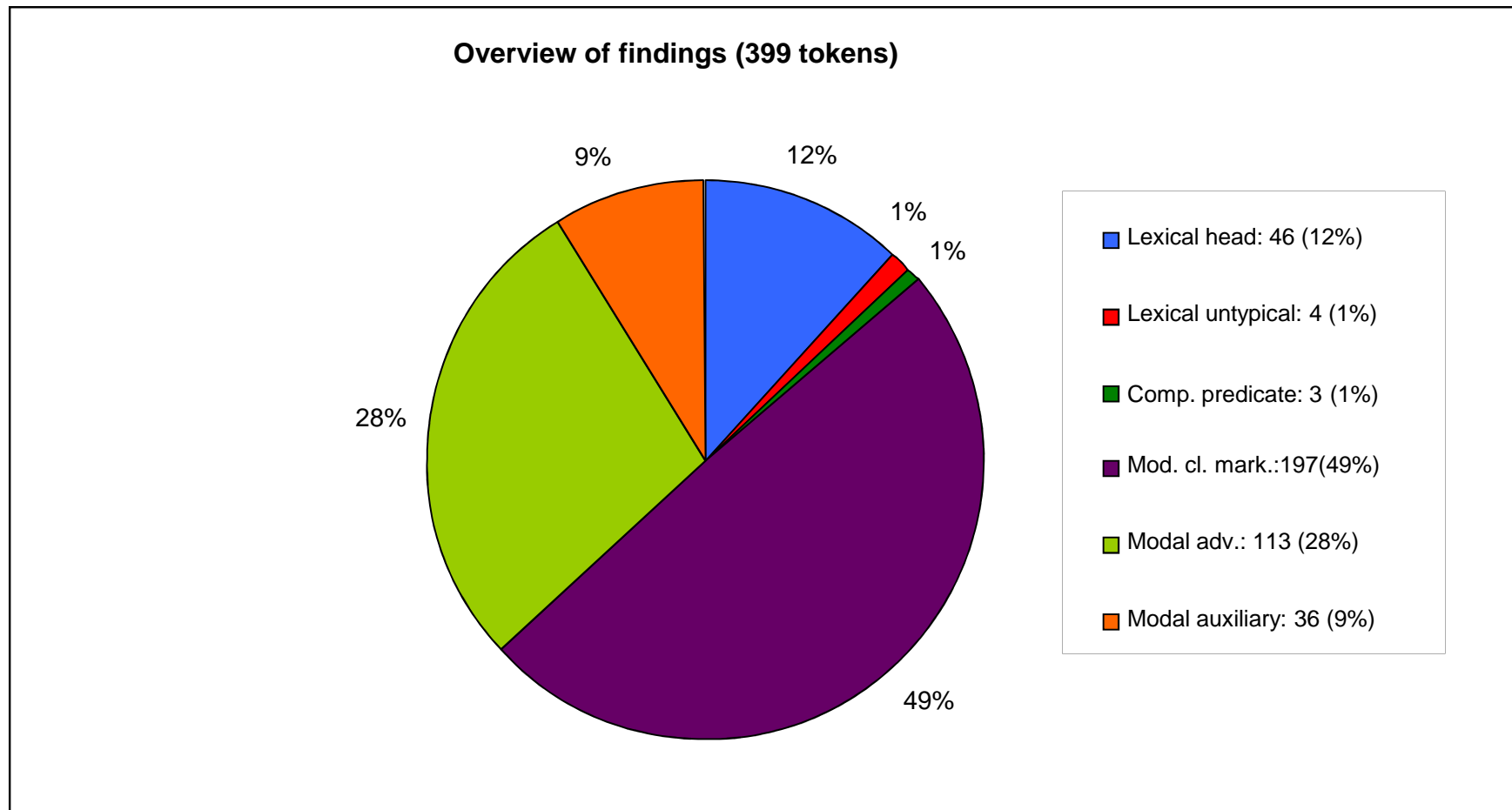
1.3. Grammaticalized uses

C) Modal adverbial - *no way*

- Adverbial *no way* as utterance in itself
- Meaning 1: ‘unbelievable!’ (mirativity marker)
= rare construction (2 tokens in dataset)
 - *“A hitchhiker!” said Ellie excitedly. “Yeah, **no way**,” said Julia.*
- Meaning 2: emphatic ‘no’ with modal inferences
= 37 occurrences
 - “What do we do? Do we hike out downriver?” “**No way**,” Max answered firmly.*

Comparison with Lexical and Modal uses
of *no question*

Distribution lexical and grammaticalized uses with *no way*



Total: 399

Distribution lexical and grammaticalized uses with *no question* (De Wolf & Davidse 2010)

	1972-2004
Lexical head	19 (7.6%)
Lex. cl. 'not in question'	19 (7.6%)
Emphatic positive marker	90 (36%)
Lex. cl. 'not at stake'	48 (19.2%)
Negative marker	52 (20.8%)
Modal adverbial(emp.pos.)	22 (8.8%)
	TOTAL: 250

Comparison **modal** expressions with *no way* vs. *no question*

- *no question*:
- 34.4% lexical(ized) uses
7.6% noun + complement clause and 27.8% lexicalized clause,
e.g. *There was no question of keeping alcohol out of the way of children.* *If we wanted a glass of watered down Chianti it was not an issue.*
- **65.6%** grammaticalized uses
of which: 56.8% clausal and 8.8% adverbial
- *no way*:
- 14% lexical(ized) uses
13% noun + relative clause and 1% composite lexical predicate
- **86%** grammaticalized uses
of which: 49% clausal, 9% auxiliary, 28% adverbial

Comparison **modal** expressions with *no way* vs. *no question*

- *no question* (8.8%): always emphatic positive marker
- *there be no question* (56.8%): either negative or emphatic positive
 - > **emphatic (polarity-conserving)** uses: unmarked **epistemic** modal meanings predominant (86.5%)
- *no way* (28%): either negative or emphatic positive
- *there be no way* (49%): always negative marker
 - **negative (polarity reversing)** uses: unmarked option **dynamic** modal meanings predominant (81%)
- related to different **semantics** and **structural** properties of source constructions

Comparison **modal** expressions with *no way* vs. *no question*

- **lexical** uses with *question*
diachronically **change** from *speech representation*
there were questions whether the king should have scruples
> *evaluation (+ negation 'unchallengeable')* of proposition
There is not the least question of its being original.
- basic inferential scheme:
no 'questioning/challenging' of proposition implies 'emphatic modal **certainty**' about it
I have that tendency, there's no question.
(absence of dynamic/deontic modality was marked (later) derivation, De Wolf & Davidse 2010)

Comparison **modal** expressions with *no way vs. no question*

- hypothesis on basis of OED-data:
- **lexical** uses with *no way*
'no way/manner/means' + relative clause *in which/to/etc.*
There's no way to get there
- source construction **directly** invites inferential scheme:
no 'way/ manner/means' to do sth implies
'inability/impossibility', which can shift to 'non-volition'
There was no way all these problems could be solved
There was no way she was going to go back
- hypothesis: non-likelihood marked (later) derivation

Conclusion

- Semantic and structural features of source constructions make for different paths of change
- Different immediate source structures yield inferential schema for grammaticalization towards modal meaning
 - emphatic certainty *there is no question that/of ...*
 - impossibility/inability/non-volition with *there is no way to ...*
- Surface similarity of grammaticalized strings should not lead to invocation of analogy with schematic model as sole mechanism of change
- Rather, grammaticalization result of multiple different local reanalyses (lexicalization, reparsing, invited inference, etc.)

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